

Report of the meeting of the WG Microbiology Lisbon 11-10-10

Participants

Present: X. Albe, E Borcan, V. Dolmazon, O.M. Dorobat, W Geilenkeuser, C. Giroud, J. Gun-Munro, S. Heller, M. Loikkanen, V. James, V. Malakov, G. Nordin, C. Popa, K. Vernelen, J. Wahlstedt, C. Walton
Excused: S Cognat, V. Fensham, M. Fromage, A. L. Maselli, and P-A. Morandi,

Agenda

1. Presentation by Christine Walton (UK NEQAS) on fungal spore suspensions
2. Open discussion on stability and homogeneity of microbiology samples.

Summary of the meeting (as presented during the General Assembly)

Christine Walton (UK NEQAS) gave a presentation on fungal spore suspensions. This was followed by a discussion on stability and homogeneity of microbiology samples. The plan for the future: an e-mail to all members of the WG about their attitude towards stability and homogeneity.
There is an intention to start a Working Group Virology with Vivienne James as chairwoman, who will contact all members of the microbiology Working Group.

Report of the meeting

Presentation by Christine Walton on fungal spore suspensions

Christine Walton (UK NEQAS) gave a presentation on fungal spore suspensions. The presentation started with an overview of the mycology schemes, the fungi that have been distributed and the performances of the participants. Next the new specimen format (spore suspensions in water) was described, followed by the presentation of the results of a pilot distribution.

The PowerPoint of the presentation is annexed to this report and will also be available on the internet page of the Microbiology Working Group on the EQALM website.

Stability and homogeneity of microbiology samples

Last part of the presentation by Christine was dedicated to homogeneity and stability of microbiology samples; she showed for instance the viability of bacteriological samples at 12 months.

Jane Gun-Munro discussed the experiences of QMPLS (Canada) in obtaining the ISO 17043 accreditation; she also presented this experience at the general EQALM meeting on October 12th; the PowerPoint of this presentation will be available on the EQALM website.

Kris Vernelen gave a short overview on how the IPH (Belgium) solves the issues of stability and homogeneity. The PowerPoint of this short presentation is also annexed to this report and will be available on the internet page of the Microbiology Working Group on the EQALM website.

The members of the Working Group also asked the opinion and experiences of the chemists attending the Microbiology Working Group, especially on statistical issues.

Vivienne James raised the issue of homogeneity of serological samples, where UK NEQAS asks for testing on different assays/methods to evaluate these samples.

Future

An e-mail will be send to all members of the WG about their attitude towards stability and homogeneity: the mail will be send to the members attending the Lisbon meeting but also the members that were excused and the members of forgoing meetings of the WG. The information from the different organizations and their experiences can thus be collected for the benefit of all the members.

Virology Working Group

The meeting was ended with the intention to start a Working Group Virology with Vivienne James as chairwoman, who will contact all members of the microbiology Working Group to learn if they would be interested to participate.

Kris Vernelen, chairman WG microbiology
14-10-2010